

## Developmental Screening & Services for Young Children

*Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics & Rhode Island Department of Health*

### Background

Research shows that developmental screening of young children identifies physical, cognitive, and emotional health issues that may otherwise go undetected, providing the opportunity to intervene to correct problems at the earliest points possible. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends periodic, standardized screening that is integrated into preventive child health services. Yet, many Rhode Island pediatricians report barriers to conducting screening in the context of the Medical Home. Through Successful Start, Rhode Island's Early Childhood Systems Initiative, systematic screening for young children was identified as a critical need. A system that promotes early and regular screening for developmental delays and behavior problems will help to prevent poor outcomes and ensure that children and families receive the services that they need as early as possible.

### Objectives

- To understand current pediatric practice related to developmental surveillance and screening
- To identify barriers to developmental screening in pediatric primary care
- To assess interest in training, technical assistance, and support regarding developmental screening

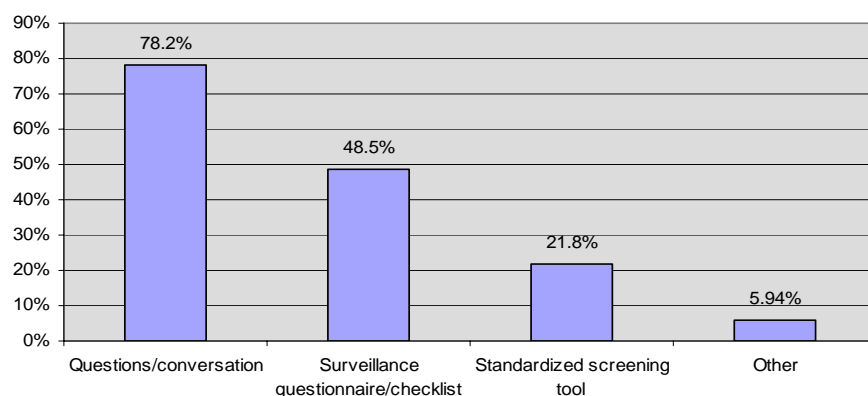
### Methods

- All primary care pediatricians practicing in Rhode Island (n=241) were surveyed by mailed questionnaire.
- Nine questions were asked regarding developmental surveillance and screening practices, screening tools used, barriers to screening, and familiarity with and accessibility of community services.
- The response rate was 49%.

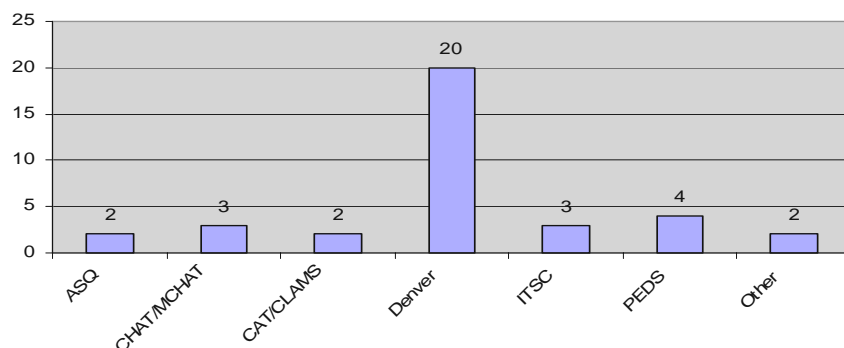
### Results

- **100% of respondents report conducting developmental surveillance for patients ages 0-60 months**
- **55% reported interest in training or technical assistance regarding developmental screening**

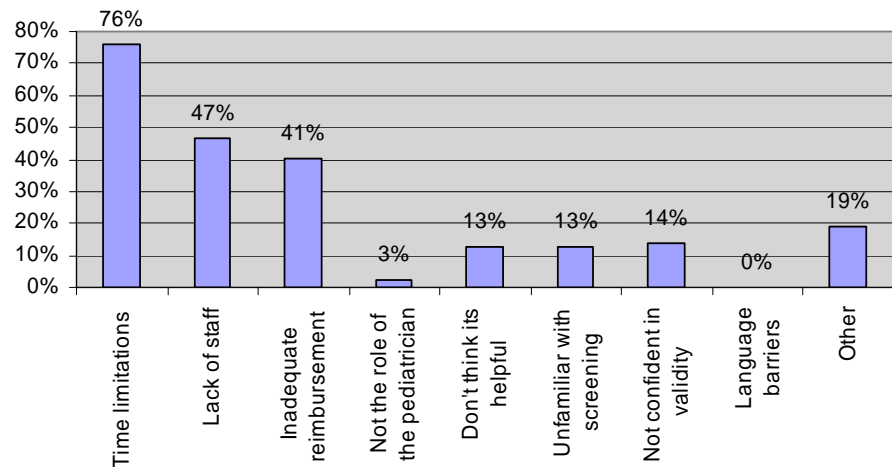
#### Methods of developmental surveillance



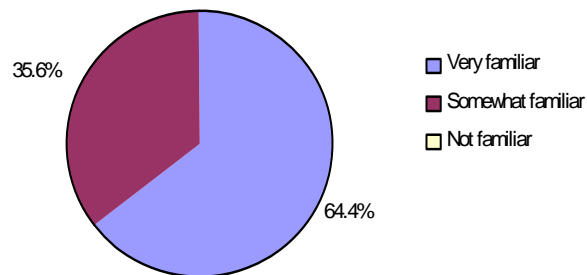
#### Standardized developmental screening tools used



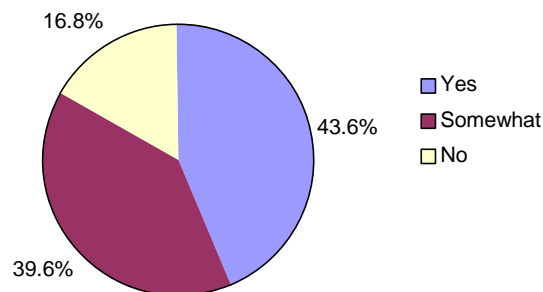
**Barriers to developmental screening**



**Familiarity with community-based services and supports for young children with developmental risks and/or delays**



**Adequacy of community-based services and supports for young children with developmental risks and/or delays**



**Services or supports for young children that are the most lacking**

